

ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY TRAINING FOR FOSTER PARENTS “Juvenile Fire Setters”



February 2016

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WELCOME

**Welcome to the new online
Juvenile Fire Setting Safety
training course for foster parents.**

This training is an alternative to personally attending the Annual Fire Safety course that is offered in each region of the state. By completing this fire safety training online, foster parents can meet the one-hour annual fire safety training requirement in the comfort of your own home according to your own schedule.

WELCOME

The N.D. Department of Human Services
has established basic fire safety requirements
for foster homes.

Foster parents are expected to
maintain these physical safety requirements.
Before initial licensure and each renewal, foster
parents are required to complete a
Fire Safety Self-Declaration and comply
with all the regulations.

Introduction

The law states (NDCC 50-11):

First: Fire prevention training course (before initial licensure and each renewal) created by the State Fire Marshal and the N.D. Department of Human Services to be offered statewide.

Second: Self-declaration forms to be completed and signed by each foster parent before initial licensure and each renewal.

Third: The N.D. Department of Human Services requires various inspections on a case-by-case basis.

Juvenile Fire Setting Statistics

Who are the fire setters?

- Children set 50% of all fires.
- Over 40% of juvenile fire setters are under age 5, and 70% are under age 10.
- Fires set by children account for approximately 250,000 fires per year.

Juvenile Fire Setting Statistics

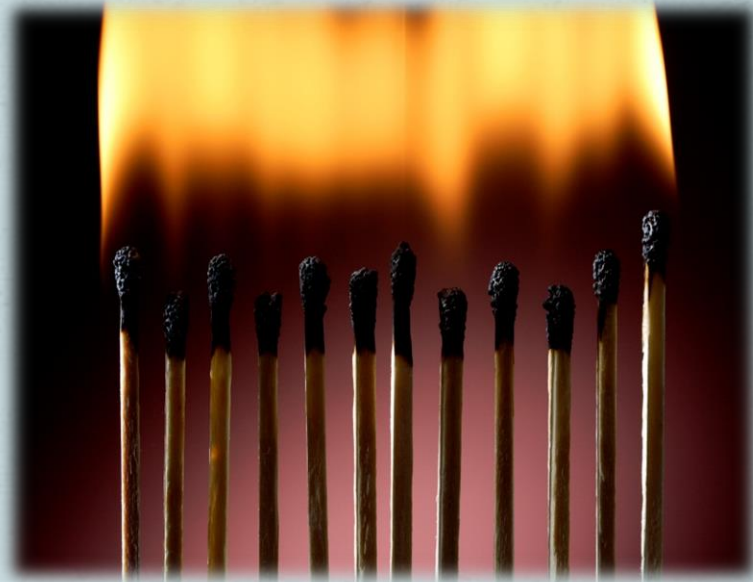
What are juvenile arson statistics?

- 55% of all U.S. arson arrests are children under the age of 18.
- Almost half of these arrests are children 15 and under.
- As many as 6.8% of juveniles arrested for arson are under the age of 10.

Juvenile Fire Setting Statistics

Children setting fires result in:

- 67,500 fires
- 230 deaths
- 1,800 injuries
- \$235 million in property damages



Juvenile Fire Setting Statistics

Younger children are more likely to set fires in the home, while older children and teenagers are more likely to set fires outside.



Juvenile Fire Setting Statistics

- Males are more likely to engage in fire-play than females, as 83% of home structure fires and 93% of outside or unclassified fires were set by boys when gender was coded as a factor.
- Butane lighters were the heat source in just over half (52%) of fires in homes involving play.
- 39% of home fires involving play began in a bedroom.



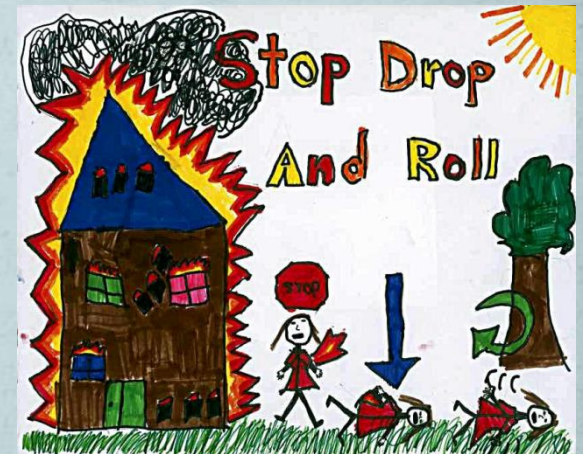
Juvenile Fire Setting Statistics

Fires started by play accounted for an average of:

- 49,300 fires,
- 80 deaths,
- 860 injuries and
- \$235 million in direct property damage per year between 2007 and 2011.

These included:

- 21,100 outside or unclassified fires
- 16,300 outside trash fires
- 11,100 structures
- 800 vehicle fires



ONLINE VIDEOS

LINK:



Learn more about Juvenile Fire Setting. Click each link to watch a short segment.

NBC TODAY Show : Juvenile Fire Setting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNiiEUQPmTo> 5:56

Juvenile Fire Setters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unB86FXvGUY> 2:10

Reason For Setting Fire

Fire has a power and fascination for many children. It is important to realize there are different levels of fascination. The way you work with children may vary depending on the type of fire setting behavior it is.

Continuum of fire setting behavior



Curiosity

Definite Concern

Extreme Concern

Reason For Setting Fire

- Curiosity
- Crisis
- Delinquent / Thrill Seeking
- Troubled / Pathological



Curiosity Fire Setters

- **Often younger**

- Majority of the children are young.
- Some children with developmental delays may also present curiosity.
- Young children often set fires in areas that they are familiar with (home, bedroom, play area).



- **Playing with fire**

- These children often imitate adults around them who they see lighting cigarettes, candles, fireplaces, or cooking grills.

Curiosity Fire Setters

- **Play in secret**
 - They play in secret and have access to lighters and matches.



- **Little knowledge about fire and its danger**
 - They “play with fire” to see what will happen and likely do not have the motive of destroying a house or hurting anyone.

Curiosity Fire Setters

- **Sets simple fires**
 - They often try to light materials that they find around the home, such as paper or a cloth.
- **Tries to put them out**
 - They may try to put them out instead of letting them burn.



Curiosity Fire Setters

Curiosity Fire Setters “play” with fire to find out how it feels, how it burns, and what it does. They do not understand a fire’s destructive potential.

These children typically have:

- False impression they can control the fire.
- Limited fire safety education.
- Minimal supervision (parental or otherwise).
- Easy access to ignition materials.



Curiosity Fire Setters

Caution

Although curiosity is a normal part of a child's growth and development, parents and other adults who discover that a child is playing with fire should take it very seriously.



Definite Concern

- **Emotionally troubled child**
 - They may be acting out in other ways, set fires to get attention or use fire to destroy clothes or personal property that hold some meaning to them.
- **Usually older, but not always**
 - Typically these children are older, such as between 7 and 14, but can be of any age.



Definite Concern

- **Attention seeking, symbolic, or involving peers**
 - Something may be upsetting them or troubling them and they may not have very good skills to talk about them. They may set fires to get attention or in a veiled way to let adults know they are hurting. They may be stressed because of events in their life. These children may be beginning a pattern of misusing fire to gain attention or to cry out for help.



Definite Concern

- **Simple fires**

- Like the curiosity fire setter, these children often set fairly simple fires and use matches and lighters and materials around the house.



Fire setters of **Definite Concern** usually benefit from a combination of fire safety education and mental health counseling or intervention.

Extreme Concern

- **Small percentage – 2% to 5%**
 - This is the most dangerous of the continuum of why children misuse fire.
- **Usually adolescent, history of abuse/neglect, long history of fascination with fire**
 - These are usually older adolescents who often have a history of medical, neurological, academic, and behavior problems. These children may find pleasure or gratification in setting a fire, or use fire as a way to get revenge on people who have wronged them or made fun of them.

Extreme Concern

Conduct Disorder - Well planned fires

- They have a history of chronic, disruptive behavior and often a diagnosis of conduct disorder.
- These children and youth already know the danger of fire.
- Their fires may be well planned and are often ignited with fire starting materials such as gas or kerosene.

Youth in this category of concern need more than fire education. These children need assessment and intense mental health intervention.

ONLINE VIDEOS

LINK:



Learn more about Juvenile Fire Setting.
Click each link below.

The Dangers of Youth Fire Setting

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QHHnVu_zxs 5:31

Playing With Fire

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pv1NJDMSy5k> 4:32

When To Be Concerned

Providers should ALWAYS be concerned. It is important to take use of fire seriously, since even simple curiosity can result in harm to people and property.





Red Flags



- Chronic history of misusing fire.
- Fire setting is seen in a child who also shows a pattern of being cruel to animals.
- Fire setting in older children.
- Threats of setting fires or actual fire setting to scare or control adults.
- Psychiatric diagnosis of conduct disorder along with fire setting behavior.
- Rageful, vengeful anger that accompanies fire setting.

Other Warning Signs

- Fascination with fires and candles.
- Stashing matches or lighters; hiding or hoarding matches.
- Stealing matches from purses or restaurants.
- Talking about fires.
- Smelling smoke in bedrooms, bathrooms, or hiding places.
- Past history of misuse of fire.

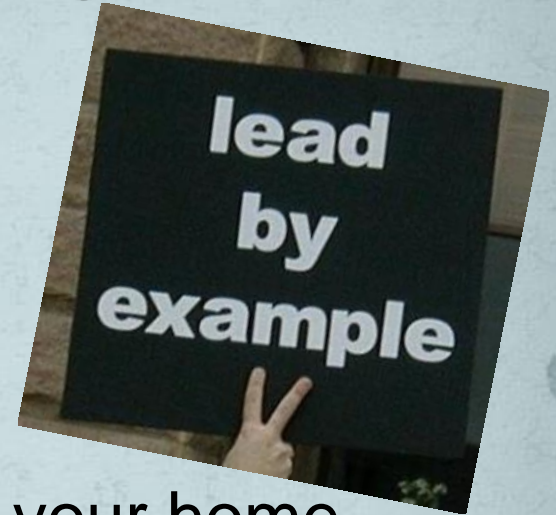


Any misuse of fire by a foster youth should be immediately relayed to your social worker.

What Can You Do

Setting a Good Example

- Install and maintain smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Plan and practice fire escape drills in your home.
 - Activate smoke detectors during these drills to increase familiarity.
- Regularly inspect your home for fire hazards.
- Always use “safety sense” when making or using fire.
- Point out to your children the safety rules you and others follow throughout the day.



What Can You Do

Take Responsibility for Fire Safety

- Teach fire safety at home as well as in school.
 - Fire is a tool NOT a toy, that we use to heat our homes or cook our food.
 - Fire is dangerous -- it can kill.
 - All fires can spread quickly.
- Even adults must follow special fire safety rules.



What Can You Do

Control Your Child's Access to Fire

- Keep all matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
 - Even a two-year-old can operate a cigarette lighter.
- Never allow anyone to use lighters or matches in an unsafe manner in your home.
- Never leave stoves or lit candles unattended.
- Teach children to tell adults if they find or see matches or lighters.



What Can You Do

Control Your Child's Access to Fire

- Do not prematurely assign responsibilities involving matches, lighters, and fire to children.
 - Lighting candles, filling a woodstove, burning rubbish
- Participate in training to learn about fire setters.
- Help raise awareness to others about fire setters.
- Know the resources in your community to help juvenile fire setters or develop a juvenile fire setters program.



What can you do

Report Instances of Juvenile Fire Setting

- Only a small percentage of fire incidents involving youth are reported to authorities each year.
- Incomplete reporting means we have an inaccurate picture of the fire problem.
 - Sufficient resources are necessary to effectively address juvenile fire setting.



A Child With Fire Setting History Placed In Your Home

If a child with a fire setting history is placed in your home, you may consider taking some of the following precautions:

- Install numerous smoke detectors throughout the house. (More than the amount required). The same for fire extinguishers.
- Lock up fire starting materials, including matches, barbeque lighters, cigarette lighters, gasoline and kerosene. Pay attention to stoves, ovens, and furnaces as a source of ignition.

A Child With Fire Setting History Placed In Your Home

- Let children know clearly that
 - Matches, lighters, and other fire setting materials are not allowed.
 - Let the child know that you will be doing regular searches.
 - Conduct searches of pockets, dresser drawers, backpacks, rooms (under the mattress and bed), air vents, and jackets for any fire setting material.
 - Remember, children can pick up matches in restaurants, so carefully monitor these children in public places.
- Train all children in your home to let an adult know about unsafe situations or activity involving fire.



A Child With Fire Setting History Placed In Your Home

- Some foster homes with children who have a serious history of fire setting may also install motion detectors to help with supervision of children.
- If a child has not yet been assessed for his or her fire setting behavior, talk to your social worker about having an assessment completed and follow through with all suggestions.

Assessment of Risk				
		Likelihood		
		Low	Medium	High
Taking into account the fire prevention measures observed at the time of this risk assessment, it is considered that the Risked from fire (Excluded of fire at these premises is:		Extremely low likelihood of fire (no hazards present)	Normal likelihood - usual hazards and appropriate controls	Continuous likelihood due to lack of adequate controls for significant hazards
		Severity		
		High	Medium	Extreme
Taking into account the nature of the building and its occupants, as well as the fire protection and procedural arrangements observed at the time of this risk assessment, it is considered that the consequences of harm in the event of a fire would be:		Extremely low potential for death or serious injury or death	Continued fire could reasonably result in serious injury or death	Significant potential for serious injury or death of a number of occupants
		Risk		
		Severity / Consequences of fire		
Likelihood of fire		High	Medium	Extreme
	Low	Very Low Risk	Low Risk	Modest Risk
	Medium	Low Risk	Modest Risk	High Risk
	High	Modest Risk	High Risk	Intolerable Risk
It is considered that the risk to life from fire at these premises is:				
Very Low Risk	Low Risk	Modest Risk	High Risk	Intolerable Risk
No or limited additional action is required and no similar hazards exist in the hotel.				
Minimal improvements and additional controls (outlined that describe those at 10/11/17)	Essential risk reduction measures should be implemented within a defined time period.	Considerable measures need to be taken to reduce the risk. Urgent action should be taken.	Urgent and significant action required. Building fire specific audit should now be conducted and the risk is reduced.	

A Child With Fire Setting History Placed In Your Home

- Children who have serious fire setting behaviors usually have other emotional problems and difficulties. Work with a mental health counselor on these issues.
- Report all fire setting behavior to your social worker and to the police.

(Information from *Fostering a Fire Safe Home: A Guide For Foster Parents Caring For A Child With Fire Setting Behavior*. Assembled by the Alaska Center for Resource Families and the Anchorage Fire Department FIRE STOPPERS Program.)

Important

Children and fire can be a deadly combination.



Summary

Congratulations! You have completed the annual Juvenile Fire Setting Safety training course.

1. Please answer the following questions to test your understanding of what you have learned. Following the questions, you will have a chance to see if your answers were correct.
2. After reviewing your questions and answers, please **print off a copy of the Certificate of Completion, sign, date, and submit a copy to your licensing agency.** If you are unable to print, please notify your licensing agency.

Fire Safety Test Questions

1. Which group of children who misuse fire does the following describe? *They are usually between 7 and 14. Something may be troubling them and they may set fires to get attention or in a veiled way to let adults know they are hurting.*
 - a. Fire setting out of Curiosity
 - b. Fire setting of Definite Concern
 - c. Fire setting of Extreme Concern
 - d. Pyromania
2. Which group of children who misuse fire does the following describe? *They are usually young, play in secret and have access to lighters and matches. They light materials that they find around the home and usually try to put them out instead of letting them burn.*
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 - b. Fire setting of Definite Concern
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3. Which group of children who misuse fire does the following describe? *They are usually older adolescents who often have a history of medical or neurological problems, academic, and behavior problems. These children may find pleasure or gratification in setting a fire or use fire as a way to get revenge on people who have wronged them or made fun of them.*
 - a. Fire setting out of Curiosity
 - b. Fire setting of Definite Concern
 - c. Fire setting of Extreme Concern
 - d. Pyromania

Fire Safety Test Questions

4. Usually a brief visit to the fire department with a ride on a truck or a brief “lecture” from a local fire chief is enough for a younger child with a history of impulsivity, depression, and or family conflict.
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. Which of the following are warning signs that a child may have serious issues with using fires?
 - a. Chronic history of misusing fire
 - b. A child is also cruel to animals
 - c. Threats of setting fires or actual fire setting to scare or control adults
 - d. All of the above
6. Children who have serious fire setting behaviors usually are misunderstood and should be trusted around matches, lighters, and other fire setting material until there is reason not to trust them.
 - a. True
 - b. False
7. Fascination with fires and candles are warning signs that need to be explored for possible fire setting behaviors.
 - a. True
 - b. False
8. Although curiosity is a normal part of children’s growth and development, parents and other adults who discover that a child is playing with fire should take it very seriously.
 - a. True
 - b. False

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 - b. False

ONLINE ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY TRAINING COURSE FOR FOSTER PARENTS

“Juvenile Fire Setters”



**I hereby certify that I have completed the online annual
Juvenile Fire Setting Safety Training.**

Signature

Date

Acknowledgement and Thanks

When developing this online annual Juvenile Fire Setting Safety Training course for foster parents in North Dakota, information and resources were provided by:

- ❖ American Red Cross
- ❖ National Fire Protection Association
- ❖ The National Council on Fireworks Safety
- ❖ U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
- ❖ N.D. State Fire Marshal's Office
- ❖ N.D. Department of Human Services
- ❖ PATH North Dakota, Inc.
- ❖ National Fire Protection Association, Alaska Center for Resource Families Web-Based Course

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding this annual Juvenile Fire Setting Safety course, please contact your local foster care licensing agency.

Thank you!

